

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Billy L. McCarter, DOB 10/05/79, of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 52 months in federal prison for unlawfully possessing a firearm in July 2005. McCarter pleaded guilty to this charge on February 22, 2006.

At approximately 3:53 a.m. on July 13, 2005, McCarter was stopped by the Wisconsin State Patrol in Dunn County for speeding on Interstate 94. A subsequent search of his car revealed a loaded handgun with an obliterated serial number, as well as 25 grams of marijuana and 63 grams of cocaine. McCarter, a member of the Black Disciples in Chicago, has a previous drug felony conviction from Cook County, Illinois and therefore is prohibited from possessing a firearm.

The charge against McCarter was the result of an investigation conducted by the West Central Drug Task Force, the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation - Narcotics Bureau, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

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